

## Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, OSCI, TGEN, RO  
SUBJ: MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS: NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE  
SCIENCE PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY. MID-TERM REVIEW OF US/ROMANIAN PROGRAM OF COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES ACHIEVED NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN S&T AREA BY CONVINCING GOR AT POLICY LEVEL THAT US SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS DIMINISHING KEYSTONE NSF/NCST PROGRAM AND SPEEDY ACTION REQUIRED BY GOR TO PREVENT PROGRAM FROM WITHERING AWAY. AS POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE THIS RECOGNITION, NCST ENDORSED NSF WORKSHOP INITIATIVE AS PRINCIPAL MODALITY FOR ANY RENEWED PROGRAM OF NSF/NCST COOPERATION AND PLEDGED COMPLETE COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PORTION OF MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM, DR. ROBERT BRAINARD OF NSF EXPLAINED TO NCST REPRESENTATIVES THAT UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS WHICH DIMINISH PROGRAM WERE OF SUCH LONG-STANDING DURATION THAT NSF HAD REACHED POINT WHERE IT SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED IF NCST INTERESTED IN CONTINUING PROGRAM. HE INFORMED NCST REPRESENTATIVES THAT CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY AND CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN BY NSF TO NOT RENEWING MOU, AT LEAST IN ITS CURRENT FORM. NSF  
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IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM AND MODALITIES OF FUTURE COOPERATION, IF ANY, WILL DEPEND ON RESULTS THIS ASSESSMENT. HE INVITED NCST TO CONDUCT SIMILAR ASSESSMENT ON ROMANIAN SIDE AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF NSF ASSESSMENT IN EARLY MAY IN WASHINGTON.

3. DR. BRAINARD ALSO STATED THAT IF NSF/NCST PROGRAM CONTINUED, IT CLEAR FROM PST HISTORY THAT FORMAT MUST BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE CHANGED PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS ON BOTH SIDES. HE RECOMMENDED THAT NCST CONSIDER DEEMPHASIZING JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS, WHILE MOVING TO PROGRAM BASED ON WORKSHOPS. WORKSHOPS WOULD DRAW U.S. ROMANIAN AND POSSIBLY THIRD COUNTRY RESEARCHERS AND APPLICATORS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS STATE-OF-THE-ART KNOWLEDGE IN AREAS OF APPLIED SCIENCE SUCH AS CHEMICAL CATALYSIS, INDUSTRIAL ROBOTICS, METAL FATIGUE. TOPICS WOULD BE JOINTLY DETERMINED AND WORKSHOPS WOULD BE HELD IN U.S. AND ROMANIA UNDER EXISTING FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS. SCIENCE WORKSHOPS WOULD ALSO BE STRUCTURED TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED. THEY COULD BECOME PRIMARY SOURCE FOR FUTURE JOINT PROJECTS.

4. INITIAL RESPONSE TO DR. BRAINARD'S WORKSHOP INITIATIVE WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL. NCST'S MATACHE OFFERED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THIRTEEN NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS WHICH DR. BRAINARD DECLINED TO ACCEPT ON GROUNDS THAT JOINTLY AGREED MORATORIUM ON NEW PROJECTS REMAINED IN EFFECT AND NSF ASSESSMENT WHICH WILL DETERMINE NEW DIRECTIONS NOT COMPLETED.

5. AT LUNCHEON MEETING ON FEB. 22, NCST ADVISER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANZATU WHOLEHEARTEDLY ACCEPTED AND ENDORSED DR. BRAINARD'S PROPOSAL FOR WORKSHOPS ON BEHALF OF NCST. HE SAID HE ENVISIONED THREE' LEVEL APPROACH IN FUTURE CONSISTING OF: (A) CONCLUSION OF EXISITING PROJECTS NOW RUNNING INTO 1980'S AND PERHAPS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROJECTS WHICH WOULD REFLECT MUTUAL INTEREST, (B) IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKSHOP CONCEPT, AND (C) EMERGENCE OF NEW JOINT PROJECTS FROM WORKSHOPS. MANZATU REITERATED THAT GOR AND NCST WISHED TO CONTINUE AND DEEPEN THE NSF RELATIONSHIP AND NCST PREPARED TO FULLY COOPERATE WITH NSF TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER WHO ALSO PRESENT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS PLEDGE ALSO INCLUDED POLITICAL WILL ON PART OF GOR TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN SCIENTIFIC RELATIONSHIP.

6. AS FOLLOW-ON TO MOD-TERM REVIEW, NSF WILL SEND COPIES OF DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE BEING USED IN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT PROGRAM TO NCST THROUGH THE SCIATT. NCST MAY WISH TO USE DOCUMENTS AS MODEL FOR CONDUCTING OWN ASSESSMENT. NSF WILL ALSO TRANSMIT LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR EXPEDITING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

PLAGUING EXISTING PROGRAM. FOR ITS PART, NCST WILL CONDUCT ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM FROM ITS SIDE; RESULTS TO BE USED IN MAY ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF NEW PARAMETERS FOR COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, NCST WILL DRAW UP PRELIMINARY LIST OF TOPICS FOR WORKSHOPS FOR PRESENTATION IN MAY.

7. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM DEEP CONCERN EXPRESSED IN MEETINGS DAS GANLEY AND AMBASSADOR HAD WITH DEPFONMIN GLIGA AND NCST PRESIDENT URSU AND IN WORKING GROUP ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT NSF MIGHT NOW RENEW MOU, PLUS POSITIVE NCST RESPONSE TO DR. BRAINARD'S WORKSHOP INITIATIVE, MESSAGE SEEMS FINALLY TO HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH AT GOR POLICY LEVEL IN CONTEXT OF MID-TERM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVIEW THAT U.S. IS SERIOUS ABOUT UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF US/ROMANIAN SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND NSF/NCST PROGRAM IN PARTICULAR. RECOGNITION ALSO ACHIEVED THAT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT ON ROMANIAN SIDE IS REQUIRED TO SALVAGE S&T COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. FROM EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, THIS MOTABLE AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MID-TERM REVIEW COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL USDEL AND NSF PARTICIPATION IN PERSON OF DR. BRAINARD. END COMMENT. AGGREY

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